

employed as architect or surveyor, or where he shall be the commissioner, receiver, steward, or agent of any person interested in such building or matter; and if it shall happen that more than one of the said official referees shall be employed as architect or surveyor as to the same building or matter, or shall be the commissioner, receiver, steward, or agent of any person interested therein, or if any disagreement or difference of opinion shall arise between any two official referees who shall act as to such building or matter, not being employed as architect or surveyor, or as commissioner, receiver, steward, or agent of any person interested therein, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods, Forests, Land Revenues, Works and Buildings, from time to time, upon the report of the official referees or any one of them, or upon the application of any person interested in the matter in dispute, to authorize one or more competent persons, being of the profession of an architect or surveyor, to be special referees in respect of such particular building or matter either in conjunction with the acting official referees or referees, or alone, as the case may require; and every special referee authorised by the said commissioners shall, as to the particular building or matter for which he is authorized, have the same power, authority, and duties, as if he had been appointed an official referee under the authority and for the general purposes of the said recited Act; and it shall be lawful for the said commissioners to assign to every such special referee such part of the remuneration of the official referee or referees who shall be disqualified as aforesaid from acting as to such particular building or matter, or otherwise to remunerate him as the said commissioners shall think fit.

4. *Offices vacant.*—And be it enacted, that if any official referee shall act as surveyor, either alone or with any partner, or by an agent, or as commissioner, receiver, steward, or agent, for or on behalf of any owner of houses or land within the limits of the said recited Act, without the license and consent in writing of one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, or shall continue to act as surveyor, either alone or with any partner, or by an agent, or to act as such commissioner, receiver, steward, or agent as aforesaid, after such license and consent shall have been withdrawn or shall have expired, then he shall cease to be qualified to hold the office of official referee, and thereupon such office shall be vacant, without prejudice nevertheless to any acts done by him in his capacity of official referee, so far as other persons are affected thereby.

5. *Salaries of Official Referees.*—And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for her Majesty from time to time to grant such salaries for the remuneration of the said official referees respectively as her Majesty shall, as to each of them, be pleased to appoint, not exceeding in the whole for the three referees the sum of two thousand pounds per annum.

6. *Contributions to be paid to the Consolidated Fund and Salaries paid thereout.*—And whereas for the purpose of providing for the payment of a portion of the salaries of the official referees and registrar under the said recited Act, it was by the said Act enacted, that the lord mayor and aldermen of the city of London should direct the chamberlain of the said city, and the justices of the peace for the several counties of Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent should direct the treasurer of such respective counties to pay by two half-yearly payments in the months of June and December in every year to or into the hands of the cashier of the Commissioners of Works and Buildings on account of the said official referees, and of the said registrar, the several sums of money therein mentioned as and by way of contribution to such salaries; and it was enacted, that the balance of such salaries should be payable and paid out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom: and whereas such salaries are by the said Act directed to be paid quarterly, and the contributions towards payment of the same being payable half-yearly, it has not been practicable to pay such salaries as directed by the said Act, and it has been found inconvenient to pay the same in part out of moneys contributed by the said city and counties respectively and in part out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom: BE it therefore enacted, That the several sums of money which

under the said recited Act are payable by the chamberlain of the city of London, and the treasurer of the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent respectively, to the cashier of the Commissioners of Works and Buildings on account of the said official referees and of the said registrar, and all arrears and future payments thereof, shall, instead of being paid to such cashier on such account as aforesaid, be payable and paid into the receipt of her Majesty's Exchequer, and carried to the account of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and the salaries of the official referees and registrar of metropolitan buildings for the time being, and all arrears thereof, shall be paid wholly out of the said Consolidated Fund by the Lord High Treasurer or the Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury for the time being; and such salaries shall accrue from day to day, and be paid quarterly on the first day of January, the first day of April, the first day of July, and the first day of October in every year; and every official referee and registrar shall be entitled to a proportionate part of his salary from the day of his appointment to the next succeeding quarter-day of payment, and from the last quarter-day of payment preceding his death, discharge from or ceasing to hold the office of official referee or registrar (as the case may be) to the day of his death, discharge or ceasing to hold such office.

7. *Public Act.*—And be it enacted, that this Act shall be deemed to be a public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such by all judges, justices, and others, without being specially pleaded.

8. *Act may be amended.*—And be it enacted, that this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in the present session of Parliament.

HEALTH IN TOWNS.

ON Thursdays evening, Mr. Traice delivered a lecture on this interesting subject at the City of Westminster Literary, Scientific, and Mechanical Institution.

The lecturer stated it to be his object to bring under the notice of his hearers a few of the more striking facts, and to accompany these with such reflections and deductions as would naturally arise from the premises. The consideration of the causes which on a large scale affect the health and duration of life of all classes of the community, in various degrees, must have the deepest interest for all parties. It addressed itself to the rich as a question of humanity, and must force on their minds the conviction, that much of their present benevolent outlay for the alleviation of sickness, and its consequences, might, by ordinary preventive measures, be rendered unnecessary, and might be devoted to even nobler purposes of philanthropy. To the middle and labouring classes the obvious and vital importance of the matter must render comment superfluous.

The most cursory glance at the subject would shew, that however great the mortality which we now have to deplore, it is inconsiderable when compared with that which devastated our towns in the 16th and 17th centuries, chiefly from causes which, it is now beyond a doubt, are readily preventable. It is speaking below the fact to say, that full half the deaths in the metropolis and other cities, during the earlier portion of the 17th century, were attributable to a neglect of those sanitary regulations which nature herself dictates, viz., the provision for health-breathing currents of pure instead of mephitic air, and the removal of all matters noxious to the senses. We were much indebted to the labours of Howard, who, undoubtedly, first gave a practical turn to the public mind in regard to the preservation of health among people congregated in dense masses. He explored the filthy dens in which our criminals were immured to engender and propagate the most deadly forms of infection; he proved that we consigned thousands of our fellow-creatures to places where water was doled out miserably, if supplied at all, and where every kind of refuse was allowed to accumulate, diffusing a pestiferous vapour, from whose insidious poison, few escaped without malignant disease. So deadly was this disease, that it was termed the gaol fever; and it is said that 2,000 lives were lost in one fleet, from the fatal infection communicated from some recently liberated prisoners. Now, if we contrast this

with our goals at the present day, we shall find, actually, that they have less sickness than falls to the lot of working people in circumstances of comparative comfort. This has been accomplished, chiefly, by a careful removal of all refuse, the maintenance of scrupulous cleanliness, and the provision of an active circulation of fresh air. In referring to various tables of mortality, which the lecturer exhibited, he observed, that it would be seen that there was a great disparity between different localities and classes of the community; that, as a general rule, the average age of the gentry far exceeded that of mechanics and labourers, and their families, perhaps by two-fifths; that, in some instances, so great was the mortality, that more than half of a given number of children born were dead before reaching their fifth year: that while in some of the rural districts the average age, at death, is among the labouring population thirty-three years, as in Wiltshire, in Bethnal Green it is narrowed to sixteen, and in Liverpool to fifteen years. It was natural to inquire whether any common evil or evils could be detected in uniform association with these respective results; and the question was fully answered by the fact, that wherever it was found that the duration of life is thus "curtailed of its fair proportions," there are none, or very imperfect means, of carrying off impurities; water lies in stagnant pools evolving miasma; pure water is an article so scarce, that cleanliness is utterly neglected, and the inhabitants are crowded into close rooms in ill-constructed houses, and in confined courts and narrow lanes, where the genial breeze can never penetrate unpolluted.

The subject of drainage had been latterly viewed in connection with a most important philosophical principle, namely, that there is no destruction or waste of matter, and that whatever chemical agents are taken from the soil in various vegetable productions, are capable of being returned to it, so as to form one endless series of vitality passing to decay, and the products of decay supplying the conditions of new organic life. This was the rationale of what were called manures, and if it were possible so to arrange, that the refuse of animal existence, which must contain the principal agents of fertility, and are chiefly deposited in drains, sewers, cesspools, could be restored to the soil, it would at once make a great approximation to a practical application of the principle just announced, and would also subvert the great object of economy which has hitherto embarrassed this question: for hitherto while on the one hand we were constantly exhausting the soil of some of its essential riches, on the other we were encumbered and perplexed, and put to enormous cost to get well rid of these ingredients, which however valuable in the field, are pollution and corruption in the city. A variety of plans had been projected to effect this adjustment; among others, he had a model of an arrangement proposed by Mr. Miers, which consisted of three reservoirs, each adapted to receive the sewage for one tide, and by allowing its heavier matters to subside, and throwing down various organic elements by a free distribution of slacked lime, and constructing tolerably airtight sheds over it, in which a free evolution of gases should take place to neutralize and precipitate the effluvia; it was considered possible at once to secure all the valuable chemical agents held in suspension by the fluid, and allow the water to pass off almost wholly deprived of its impurities. He could not pretend to give any opinion of this plan, further than to say, that it appeared in entire consistence with the general principles of chemical philosophy, and merited the fullest and most impartial consideration. After pointing out various evils connected with the accumulation of filth, especially in the semi-fluid state, and of the overcrowding of the population: the lecturer referred at some length to the loss, as represented both by suffering and money to the community, from a neglect of due sanitary measures, and said he had contemplated giving a series of suggestions as to the circumstances connected with the securing healthy homes for all, and especially the labouring people. But time would only allow him to recommend that in the choice of a house, they should take great care to ascertain if it had a communication with a sewer, and moreover, if under all states of the weather and tides, the drains carried off all impurities, that they should inform them-